PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) Government is not aware of the existence or development of any such liquid as an alternative to petrol and also cheaper by 50 per cent.

Stable power supply to rural areas

1233. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state-

(a) whether any instructions have since been issued by the Central Go vernment to the State Goverments to give special attention for providing stable power supply to the rural areas; and

(b) if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b) Distribution of power is prima rily the responsibility of the respec tive State Governments. Power sup ply t_0 various consumers in the rural|urban areas is decided by the State authorities, keeping in view the demand and availability of power- Priority is generally accorded in the matter of power supply to agri-cultual consumers with an assured supply of about 6 to 8 hours|day.

Shortage of power in the country

1234. SHRI PRABHAKAR! RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of power in the country at present paticularly in the Southern part;.,

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(cj what is the estimated requirement and availability of power in each State and Union Teritories, separately; and

(d) whether any plan has since been chalked out by Government to improve power supply position; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b) During April-Nov., 1990 the power shortage in the country was 7. 4 per cent as against 10. 5 per cent in the Southern Region. The reason for power shortage is mainly on account of the demand outstripping the supply and availability.

(c) The anticipated power supply position in different states/UTs dur ing 1990-91 is given in statement. (See below)

(d) The various measures being taken to improve the availability of power include constant monitoring of the generators of the existing power stations to optimise the generators, expediting commissioning of new generating units, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the perfomance of existing power stations, reducing T & D losses, im plementation of demand management and eergy conservation measures aod arranging transfe of supply from sur plus to deficit areas.